

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS
OFFICE OF NEWS SERVICE

MAJOR GENERAL EDWIN A. WALKER

Edwin Anderson Walker was born November 10, 1909, at Canter Point, Texas and attended Schreiner Institute at Kerrville, Texas. He graduated from the Roswell, New Mexico Military Institute, in 1927 and from the United States Military Academy in 1931.

As a second lieutenant, Walker was a student at the Air Corps Primary Flying School, Randolph Field, Texas, and then served with the horse-drawn 15th and 16th Field Artillery Battalions and as a member of the U. S. Army Polo Team.

After attending the battery officers' course at Fort Sill, Oklahoma in 1936, he remained at the Artillery School as an instructor, and later served as a battery executive officer for the 18th Field Artillery Regiment.

In 1939 he was transferred to the Hawaiian Department and commanded a battery of the 13th Field Artillery Regiment. In January 1942, he returned to the United States to become S-3 (Operations Officer) of the Fourth Infantry Division Artillery and later commander of the 20th Field Artillery Battalion at Camp Gordon, Georgia. This began a series of command assignments which extended throughout World War II.

On formation of a special service force which contained airborne amphibious, mountain and ski troops, General Walker assumed command of the 3rd Regiment, First Special Service Force in May 1943. His unit participated in the Aleutian Campaign, making the assault landing on Amchitka. The Third Regiment, with Walker in command was transferred to Europe, where it participated in the attack on Naples, the Zinzio beachhead, the Battle of Cassino, and the Southern France campaign. Upon deactivation of the First Special Service Force, he organized and commanded the 474th Infantry Regiment (Separate) which participated in the Rhineland and Central Europe campaigns under General Patton's Third Army.

In May 1945, General Walker organized and later commanded Task Force "A", which was sent to Norway to receive the surrender of the German troops there.

In late 1945, he returned to the United States, where he became executive and assistant director of the combined arms department Field Artillery School, Fort Sill, Okla. He then attended and graduated from the Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas and the Air War College at Maxwell Field, Alabama in the fall of 1947.

MORE

After a two-year tour of duty as a staff officer for the European and Middle East branch of the Operations Group, Office of the Chief of Staff, he became Secretary of the General Staff, Fourth U. S. Army, Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

After service as assistant commandant, Ranger Training Command at the Infantry School, Fort Benning, Ga., he helped train airborne ranger companies for each Army division.

General Walker was sent to Korea in mid-1951 to command the Second Division Artillery and later the Seventh Infantry Regiment. He then successively became the Deputy Chief of Staff for prisoner-of-war affairs, Eighth Army, and senior advisor to the First Republic of Korea Corps.

General Walker left Korea in early 1953 and became deputy commander for supporting arms, 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, North Carolina. In mid-1955, he became chief of the Army Section, Military Assistance Advisory Group, Taiwan (Formosa). In this post, he was advisor to the commander-in-chief of the Chinese Nationalist Army.

Moving to Hawaii in late 1955, he commanded the 25th Division Artillery at Schofield Barracks. He remained there until mid 1957, when he became commander of the U. S. Army Military District, Arkansas. When the President ordered regular Army troops to Arkansas to preserve law and order, General Walker was placed in command of these forces as well as the federalized National Guard troops.

In 1959, he assumed command of the 24th Infantry Division, Augsburg, Germany.

In April 1961, he was designated Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations at Headquarters, U. S. Army, Europe in Heidelberg Germany. In October of 1961 he was named Special Assistant to the Chief of Staff at that headquarters.

On 4 November 1961 he resigned from active military service.

LIST OF CITATIONS AND DECORATIONS

Silver Star Medal
Legion of Merit (with cluster)
Bronze Star Medal
Commendation Ribbon, Metal Pendant
Combat Infantryman Badge, (with star)
Senior Paratrooper Badge
Croix de Guerre (France)
Order of St. Olav (Norway)
Order of the British Empire (Great Britain)
Ulchi Medals with Gold and Silver Star (Korea)

MORE

PERSONAL BACKGROUND MATERIALInterests and Hobbies

Sports, reading, fishing, hunting.

Sports

Main sport at West Point: Polo

Main sport in services: Polo - member of Army Polo team in 1934 and 1935.

PERSONAL DATA

Date and place of birth: November 10, 1909, Center Point, Texas.

Parents: George P. Walker (deceased)
Charlotte T. Walker, Center Point, Texas

Marital Status: Single

EDUCATION

Schreiner Institute, Kerrville, Texas

New Mexico Military Institute, Roswell, New Mexico, graduate 1927.

United States Military Academy, West Point, New York, graduate, 1931.

Battery Officers' Course, Field Artillery School, Fort Sill, Okla. 1937.

Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas 1947.

Air War College, Maxwell Field, Alabama. 1948.

CHRONOLOGICAL LIST OF PROMOTIONS

| <u>Promotions</u> | <u>Temporary (AUS)</u> | <u>Permanent (RA)</u> |
|-------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 2nd Lieutenant | | June 11, 1931 |
| 1st Lieutenant | | Aug. 23 1935 |
| Captain | 3 Oct 1940 | June 11, 1941 |
| Major | 12 Apr. 1942 | |
| Lt Col | 2 Jan 1943 | |
| Colonel | 18 Aug 1943 | |
| Lt Col | 1 Jul 1947 | Jul 15, 1948 |
| Colonel | 7 Sep 1950 | Aug 3, 1953 |
| Brig Gen | 1 May 1953 | Dec 26, 1957 |
| Maj Gen | 1 May 1957 | |

(MORE)

CHRONOLOGICAL LIST OF ASSIGNMENTSFROMTO

After graduation from the USMA, Walker was a student at the Air Corps Primary Flying School, Randolph Field, Texas. He then served with the horse-drawn 15th & 16th Field Artillery Battalion.

He attended the Battery Officers' Course at Fort Sill, Okla. in 1936 and later served as Battery Executive Officer for the 18th Field Artillery Regiment.

In 1939, General Walker was transferred to the Hawaiian Department and commanded a battery of the 13th Field Artillery Regiment.

In January 1942, he became S-3, Operations Officer of the 4th Infantry Division Artillery and later commanded the 70th Field Artillery Battalion at Camp Gordon Ga.

Commanding Officer, 345th Field Artillery Battalion, Camp Atterbury, Indiana

16 Apr 42 10 Jan 43

Student, Division Artillery Course, the Artillery School, Fort Sill, Oklahoma

11 Jan 43 6 Feb 43

Commanding Officer, 77th Field Artillery Battalion, Fort Clark

7 Feb 43 20 May 43

Commanding Officer, 3rd Regiment Special Service Forces, Aleutians

21 May 43 22 June 44

Commanding Officer, 1st Special Service Force, European Theater of Operations

23 June 44 28 Dec 44

Commanding Officer, 474th Infantry Regiment, European Theater of Operations

29 Dec 44 6 Sep 45

Commanding Officer, Task Force "A", Norway

7 Sep 45 Nov 45

Instructor of Combined Arms. The Artillery School, Fort Sill, Oklahoma

14 Jan 46 9 Feb 46

Student, Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas

10 Feb 46 27 Jun 46

Instructor, Executive Officer, and Ass't. Director, The Artillery School, Fort Sill, Okla.

28 Jun 46 13 Aug 47

MORE

CHRONOLOGICAL LIST OF ASSIGNMENTS (CON'T.)

| | <u>FROM</u> | <u>TO</u> |
|---|-------------|-----------|
| Student, Air War College, Maxwell Field, Ala. | 14 Aug 47 | 30 Jun 48 |
| Staff Officer, European Middle East Branch. Operations Group, Department of the Army, The Pentagon, Washington, D. C. | 21 Jun 48 | 6 Jul 49 |
| Secretary of the General Staff, Acting Deputy Chief of Staff, and Assistant G-4, Fourth U. S. Army, Fort Sam Houston, Texas | 7 Jul 49 | 9 Oct 50 |
| Assistant Commandant, Ranger Training Center, Fort Benning, Ga. | 10 Oct 50 | Jun 51 |
| Commanding Officer, 2nd Infantry Division Artillery, Korea | 29 Aug 51 | 23 Oct 51 |
| Commanding Officer, 7th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division, Korea | 24 Oct 51 | 30 Jun 52 |
| Combat Liaison Officer, Eighth U. S. Army, Korea | 21 Jun 51 | 28 Sep 52 |
| Senior Adviser, I Republic of Korea Army Corps, Korea | 29 Sep 52 | Mar 53 |
| Deputy Division Commander for Supporting Arms, 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, N. C. | 15 May 53 | 4 Jun 55 |
| Chief, Army Section, Military Assistance Advisory Group, Formosa | 4 Jul 55 | 9 Oct 55 |
| Commanding General, 25th Infantry Division Artillery, Hawaii | 1 Nov 55 | 16 May 57 |
| Chief, U. S. Army Military District, Arkansas, Little Rock, Arkansas | 1 Aug 57 | 21 Sep 59 |
| Commanding General, 24th Infantry Division, 7th U. S. Army, Hq. USAREUR, Augsburg, Germany | 29 Oct 59 | 18 Apr 61 |
| Ass't. Deputy Chief of Staff, Operations, Hq. USAREUR. | 18 Apr 61 | 9 Oct 61 |
| Spec. Assistant to the Chief of Staff, Hq. USAREUR | 10 Oct 61 | |

On 4 November 1961, General Walker resigned from active military service.

END

Nov 1961

Residing in Dallas TX as of 1978

*Washington Post***B6** TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 1993 ...**OBITUARIES****Gen. Edwin Walker Dies;
Controversial Warrior**By Richard Pearson
Washington Post Staff Writer

Edwin A. Walker, 84, a retired Army major general who was a decorated combat veteran of two wars and had commanded federal troops during civil rights struggles in Little Rock, Ark., in 1957 before his political beliefs and indiscretions ended his military career, died of a pulmonary ailment Oct. 31 at his home in Dallas.

In World War II, Gen. Walker commanded the 1st Special Service Force, also known as the "Devil's Brigade." It was an elite formation of 900 Americans and 900 Canadians. Soldiers in the unit were demolition experts, parachutists and skiers. A handpicked group that fought often in snow and on mountains, they served in Italy and southern France.

He commanded the 24th Infantry Division in combat in Korea, holding the center of the United Nations line, during some of the heaviest fighting of the Korean War.

In 1957, Gen. Walker led federal troops to force school integration in the public schools of Little Rock. Time magazine put him its cover, and The Washington Post, in a 1957 editorial, hailed him for handling "the Arkansas situation with extraordinary tact and firmness."

It was later learned that he accepted command of the Little Rock forces only after President Eisenhower refused to accept his resignation. Historians now say the general did not believe in racial integration.

Gen. Walker returned to the news again in 1961 when it was learned he was passing out John Birch Society literature, which implied that President Kennedy was a traitor, to his troops in West Germany. The general also had been denouncing such figures as former president Harry S. Truman, former First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt, former secretary of state Dean Acheson and secretary of state Dean Rusk, calling them "pinks" and worse.

Following an Army investigation of his conduct, Gen. Walker was relieved of his division command for "participating in controversial duties," which included trying to influence how soldiers would vote in elections. The Army officially "admonished" him. At this point, Gen. Walker resigned his commission.

He declared his candidacy for the 1962 Democratic nomination of governor of Texas. Denouncing the "anti-Christ" U.S. Supreme Court and maintaining that "we are at war with the Reds," he got nearly 150,000 votes, finishing last in a field of six. The winner was the future governor and Treasury secretary John Connally.

In April 1963, seven months before President Kennedy was killed by gunfire in Dallas, Gen. Walker was almost struck by a sniper's bullet that came through a window at his home. The Warren Commission, which investigated the Kennedy shooting and decided that Lee Harvey Oswald, acting alone, had shot the president, also said Oswald was the gunman who had tried to kill the general.

Gen. Walker also figured prominently in a landmark 1960s libel case. After leaving the Army, he had participated in demonstrations against James Meredith's integrating the University of Mississippi. An Associated Press dispatch saying that he had "assumed command" of groups of anti-integration rioters at the University of Mississippi and that he "led a charge of students against federal marshals" drew his wrath. He also sued about a dozen other publications for similar accounts.

The Supreme Court, which ruled in 1964 that public officials cannot recover damages for reports about official duties unless they can prove actual malice, extended the ruling to public figures in general in 1967. The court reversed lower-court findings against the Associated Press, saying malice had not been proved.

Gen. Walker, a Texas native who grew up on a ranch, was a 1931 graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. He graduated 229th out of 296 cadets. He became an artilleryman.

In later years, he became active in the John Birch Society.

He leaves no immediate survivors.

HRC 901- Walker, Edwin